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100-92-77 OLA  
92-117  
United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275  
5222

October 12, 1994

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Ms. Lauren J. Belzin  
Acting Director  
Office of Legislative Affairs  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Ms. Belzin:

I have been contacted by Mr. G.E. Wilson, Warden of the Centre County Prison in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania, who wrote to me to express his opposition to the Billed Party Preference for inmate phones.

Enclosed is a copy of his letter for your review. Please accord this matter all due consideration. I have informed Mr. Wilson that his inquiry has been referred to your office, and I would appreciate your **responding to Mr. Wilson directly**.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

  
Arlen Specter

AS/rbg  
Enclosure

No. of Copies rec'd 1  
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## CENTRE COUNTY PRISON

213 East High Street  
Belleville, PA 16823  
(814) 355-8794

G. E. WILSON  
Warden

July 1, 1994

The Honorable Rood Hundt  
Federal Communications Commissions  
1919 M. Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: Billed Party Preferences  
CC Docket No. 92-77

Dear Sir,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the BPP for inmate phones. Implementation of such a policy will prove disastrous to prison's and corrections and facilities which are obligated by policy, practice and law to protect society from the depredations, harm and scams of our committed criminally convicted populations.

The present inmate collect call systems are designed to provide security, evidence trails and protection from criminal harassing phone calls from inmates to victims, courts, business, etc...while providing needed and desirable contact, communications and social links with friends and family.

The BPP policy would mean that prisons and correctional facilities would lose monitoring and physical control of any and all phone calls including evidence trails of offenders who chose to continue their criminal activities.

Some very predictable outcomes of the BPP Policy would be as follows.

1. Harassing, threatening and terrorizing phone calls to victims, judges, police, parole departments and public defenders and of course, victims.
2. Massive credit card frauds such as already has taken place in some facilities which have victimized the public and in numerous cases, the prison staff.

RECEIVED  
JUL 5 4 12 PM '94  
DENNIS K. PETZER  
Deputy Warden  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

3. Ability of inmates to plan, manage and order, without control or fear of apprehension, new crimes and depredations.

The prisons and correctional facilities would have to take measures to eliminate the infinite amount of security risk at the expense of the inmates by eliminating or severely reducing numbers of phone calls made by inmates to the outside thus severely affecting their desperately needed social links.

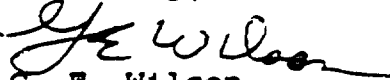
The Inmate Commissary funds would lose significant income that would adversely affect the availability of such inmate benefits and privileges as cable TV, movies, recreational equipment, computer and educational supplies, supplies for Drug and Alcohol and psycho therapy programs.

The elimination of phone commissions source would increase public tax expenditures and would result in elimination of badly needed treatment programs.

The assertion of unreasonable costs for inmate collect calls are a realistic concern. However it appears to me that the competitive aspect of competing companies are and will control costs as will public resistance to extraordinary cost for collect calls.

It is my belief that the BPP Policy would have the effect of increasing costs to inmate families and limit numbers of contacts able to handled by facilities and increase the use of public funds (taxes). Decrease equipment and supplies available for the use of inmates for recreation and off time. Significantly increase the potential for fraudulent activities by inmates.

Sincerely,

  
G. E. Wilson  
Warden

cc: Representative Clinger  
Senator Spector  
Senator Wofford